UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,295	10/22/2003	Eric Lawrence Barsness	ROC920030239US1	2239

30206 7590 11/14/2006

IBM CORPORATION
ROCHESTER IP LAW DEPT. 917
3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH
ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829

EXAMINER	
HICKS, MICHAEL J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2165	

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/691,295	BARSNESS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael J. Hicks	2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 August 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,6-17 and 20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,6-17 and 20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-3, 6-17, and 20 Pending.

Claims 4-5 and 18-19 Canceled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 8/31/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants asserts that, in the Bowman reference, the second statement is not found in the history following the previous statement in time, nor does Bowman disclose executing the second statement against the database. Examiner respectfully disagrees. The following is taken from the abstract of Bowman:

> The correlation data is generated and stored in a look-up table using an off-line process which parses a query log file. The table is regenerated periodically from the most recent query submissions (e.g., the last two weeks of query submissions), and thus strongly reflects the current preferences of users. Each related term is presented to the user via a respective hyperlink which can be selected by the user to submit a modified query.

Examiner asserts, firstly, that the term 'statement' as used in the claims does not limit the invention to dealing with queries, but a statement may also, in a reasonable interpretation, consist of a keyword which is included in a query. Secondly, Examiner asserts that the look-up table referenced in the abstract of Bowman may also be reasonably considered part of the history as all of its data is generated from the query

log file and it is used directly in conjunction with the query log file as information corresponding to previously submitted queries. Due to this, the second statement (e.g. keyword) may be found in the history (e.g. correlation look-up table and query log) and will always follow the previous statement in time, as it was generated as a result of the previous statement being submitted. Also, the second statement will be added to a query and executed against the database as part of the refined query.

The rejections made under USC 102(b) in the previous office action have been updated to reflect the amendments made to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-17, and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,006,0225 and referred to hereinafter as Bowman).

As per Claim 1, Bowman teaches a method comprising: finding a correlation between a first statement and a previous statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have*

previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query." The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates a correlation is found between a first statement/present query and a previous query.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16); predicting a second statement based on the previous statement (i.e. *"The correlation data is generated and stored in a look-up table using an off-line process which parses a query log file. The table is regenerated periodically from the most recent query submissions (e.g., the last two weeks of query submissions), and thus strongly reflects the current preferences of users...Thus, assuming items have not been deleted from the database being searched, any of these related terms can be individually added to the present query while guaranteeing that the modified query will not produce a NULL query result."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a second statement is predicted (e.g. the second statement being considered as the keywords taken from the correlation table and added to the query).) (Abstract; Column 3, Lines 16-20), wherein the predicting further comprises finding the previous statement in a history (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the previous statement is stored in a query log/history which is parsed to create correlation data.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53) and finding the second statement that was next in time following the previous statement in the history (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a correlation data structure is included as part of the history, and that the second statement is found in the correlation data structure. Note that as the data from the correlation data structure is produced from the query log file, the second statement will always follow the previous statement in time.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53); and retrieving at least one page from a database

based on the second statement wherein the retrieving further comprises executing the second statement against the database (i.e. *"When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the second statement/keywords added to the modified query is submitted to the search engine and will return at least one page/hit from the database.) (Column 14, Lines 6-12).

As per Claims 2, 8, 12, 13, and 17 Bowman teaches retrieving the at least one page asynchronously from executing the first statement against the database (i.e. *"When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that because the retrieving of the one page relies on a user interaction, it will be done asynchronously with the executing of the first statement.) (Column 14, Lines 6-12); and storing the at least one page in a cache (i.e. *"Further, the query server 132 could cache the list of items that fall within the subset, so that if the user submits the modified query (such as by clicking on the link "OUTDOOR BIKE--TRAIL" in FIG. 9), the query server could return the result of the modified search without having to search the bibliographic database. Special tags or codes could be embedded within the modified-query hyperlinks and passed to the web site 130 to enable the query server 132 to match the modified queries to the cached results."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates the returned page is stored in a cache.) (Column 14, Lines 36-45).

As per Claims 3, 10, and 15, Bowman teaches finding a host variable in the history that matches the host variable in the first statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is*

initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query." The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that because the same database is being searched in relation to the same information (e.g. identification of keyword terms) that the host variable will remain the same for the first statement/query and the stored statements/queries in the history/log.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16).

As per Claim 6, Bowman teaches and apparatus comprising: means for finding a correlation between a first statement and a previous statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates a correlation is found between a first statement/present query and a previous query.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16), wherein the previous statement is stored in a history of a plurality of statements (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the previous statement is stored in a query log/history which is parsed to create correlation data.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53); means for predicting a second statement based on the previous statement (i.e. *"The correlation data is generated and stored in a look-up table using an off-line process which parses a query log file. The table is regenerated periodically from the most recent query submissions (e.g., the last two weeks of query*

submissions), and thus strongly reflects the current preferences of users...Thus, assuming items have not been deleted from the database being searched, any of these related terms can be individually added to the present query while guaranteeing that the modified query will not produce a NULL query result." The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a second statement is predicted based on the previous statement (e.g. the second statement being considered as the keywords taken from the correlation table and added to the query).) (Abstract; Column 3, Lines 16-20), wherein the means for predicting further comprises means for finding the second statement that was next in time following the previous statement in a history (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a correlation data structure is included as part of the history, and that the second statement is found in the correlation data structure. Note that as the data from the correlation data structure is produced from the query log file, the second statement will always follow the previous statement in time.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53); and means for retrieving at least one page from a database based on the second statement wherein the retrieving further comprises executing the second statement against the database (i.e. *"When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the second statement/keywords added to the modified query is submitted to the search engine and will return at least one page/hit from the database.) (Column 14, Lines 6-12).

As per Claim 7, Bowman teaches means for saving the first statement in the history (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the first statement is stored in the query log/history.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53).

As per Claims 9 and 14, Bowman teaches means for executing a next statement against the cache (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query...When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a means for executing a next statement against the cache exists.) (Figure 9; Column 3, Lines 6-16; Column 14, Lines 6-12), wherein the next statement follows the first statement in time (i.e. The user controlled aspects of the invention make it possible for the next statement to follow the first statement in time.), and wherein a host variable in the next statement matches the host variable in the second statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have*

previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query." The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that because the same database is being searched in relation to the same information (e.g. identification of keyword terms) that the host variable will remain the same for the next statement/query and the stored/second statements/queries in the history/log.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16).

As per Claim 11, Bowman teaches a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise: finding a correlation between a first statement and a previous statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates a correlation is found between a first statement/present query and a previous query.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16), wherein the previous statement is stored in a history of a plurality of statements (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the previous statement is stored in a query log/history which is parsed to create correlation data.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53); predicting a second statement based on the previous statement (i.e. *"The correlation data is generated and stored in a look-up table using an off-line process which parses a query log file. The table is regenerated periodically from the most recent query submissions (e.g., the last two weeks of query submissions), and thus strongly reflects the current preferences of users...Thus, assuming items have not been deleted from the database being searched, any of*

these related terms can be individually added to the present query while guaranteeing that the modified query will not produce a NULL query result." The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a second statement is predicted based on the previous statement (e.g. the second statement being considered as the keywords taken from the correlation table and added to the query).) (Abstract; Column 3, Lines 16-20), wherein the predicting further comprises finding the second statement that was next in time following the previous statement in the history (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a correlation data structure is included as part of the history, and that the second statement is found in the correlation data structure. Note that as the data from the correlation data structure is produced from the query log file, the second statement will always follow the previous statement in time.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53); executing the first statement against a database (i.e. Figure 9 clearly indicates that the first statement is executed against the database and results from the first statement are returned (e.g. Top Matches for This Search).) (Figure 9); and retrieving at least one page from the database based on the second statement wherein the retrieving further comprises executing the second statement against the database (i.e. *"When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the second statement/keywords added to the modified query is submitted to the search engine and will return at least one page/hit from the database.) (Column 14, Lines 6-12).

As per Claim 16, Bowman teaches a server comprising: a processor and a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise: finding a correlation between a first statement and a previous statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates a correlation is found between a first statement/present query and a previous query.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16), wherein the previous statement is stored in a history of a plurality of statements (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the previous statement is stored in a query log/history which is parsed to create correlation data.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53), and wherein the finding the correlation further comprises finding a host variable in a history that matches the host variable in the first statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that because the same database is being searched in relation to the same information (e.g. identification of keyword terms) that the host variable will remain the same for the first statement/query and the stored statements/queries in the history/log.)

(Column 3, Lines 6-16), predicting a second statement based on the previous statement (i.e. *"The correlation data is generated and stored in a look-up table using an off-line process which parses a query log file. The table is regenerated periodically from the most recent query submissions (e.g., the last two weeks of query submissions), and thus strongly reflects the current preferences of users...Thus, assuming items have not been deleted from the database being searched, any of these related terms can be individually added to the present query while guaranteeing that the modified query will not produce a NULL query result."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a second statement is predicted based on the previous statement (e.g. the second statement being considered as the keywords taken from the correlation table and added to the query).) (Abstract; Column 3, Lines 16-20) wherein the predicting further comprises finding the second statement that was next in time following the previous statement in the history (i.e. *"In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the correlation data is stored in a correlation data structure (table, database, etc.) which is used to look up related terms in response to query submissions. The data structure is preferably generated using an off-line process which parses a query log file, but could alternatively be generated and updated in real-time as queries are received from users."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a correlation data structure is included as part of the history, and that the second statement is found in the correlation data structure. Note that as the data from the correlation data structure is produced from the query log file, the second statement will always follow the previous statement in time.) (Column 2, Lines 47-53), executing the first statement against the database (i.e. Figure 9 clearly indicates that the first statement is executed against the database and results from the first statement are returned (e.g. Top Matches for This Search).) (Figure 9), retrieving at least one page from a database based on the second statement wherein the retrieving further comprises executing the second statement against the database (i.e. *"When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the second statement/keywords added to the modified query

is submitted to the search engine and will return at least one page/hit from the database.) (Column 14, Lines 6-12), storing the at least one page in a cache (i.e. *"Further, the query server 132 could cache the list of items that fall within the subset, so that if the user submits the modified query (such as by clicking on the link "OUTDOOR BIKE--TRAIL" in FIG. 9), the query server could return the result of the modified search without having to search the bibliographic database. Special tags or codes could be embedded within the modified-query hyperlinks and passed to the web site 130 to enable the query server 132 to match the modified queries to the cached results."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates the returned page is stored in a cache.) (Column 14, Lines 36-45), and executing a next statement against the cache (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query...When the user clicks on one of these links, the corresponding modified query is submitted to the search engine. The method thus enables the user to select and submit the modified query with a single action (e.g., one click of a mouse). As an inherent benefit of the above-described method of generating the related terms, each such link produces as least one 'hit.'"* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that a means for executing a next statement against the cache exists.) (Figure 9; Column 3, Lines 6-16; Column 14, Lines 6-12), wherein the next statement follows the first statement in time (i.e. The user controlled aspects of the invention make it possible for the next statement to follow the first statement in time.), and wherein a host variable in the next statement matches the host variable in the second statement (i.e. *"To generate a set of related terms for refining a submitted query (the "present query"), the related terms list for each term in the present query is initially obtained from the correlation data structure. If this step produces multiple related terms lists (as in the case of a multiple-term query), the related terms lists are preferably combined by taking the intersection between these lists (i.e., deleting the terms that are not common to all lists). The related terms which remain are terms which have previously appeared, in at least one successful query submission, in combination with every term of the present query."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that because

the same database is being searched in relation to the same information (e.g. identification of keyword terms) that the host variable will remain the same for the next statement/query and the stored/second statements/queries in the history/log.) (Column 3, Lines 6-16)..

As per Claim 20, Bowman teaches finding the previous statement, wherein the previous statement is associated with a same job as the first statement (i.e. *"The present invention addresses these and other problems by providing a search refinement system and method for generating and displaying related query terms ("related terms"). In accordance with the invention, the related terms are generating using query term correlation data that is based on historical query submissions to the search engine. The query term correlation data ("correlation data") is preferably based at least upon the frequencies with which specific terms have historically been submitted together within the same query."* The preceding text excerpt clearly indicates that the previous statement and first statement are both associated to finding data in the database dealing with the same subject/job.) (Column 2, Lines 28-27).

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Hicks whose telephone number is (571) 272-2670. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30a - 5:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael J Hicks
Art Unit 2165
Phone: (571) 272-2670
Fax: (571) 273-2670

Apu Mofiz
Primary Examiner
TC 2100